

Status Report Japanese Beetle Trapping

Billings, Montana 2008

Japanese beetle (JB) adults continue to be found in Billings, MT. Adults were found in several traps baited with both male sex pheromone and floral scent lures during the 2008 delimiting survey. Treatment of turf grass and other irrigated areas within a one-mile radius circle of land commenced in previous years. All treatments were on a voluntary basis. Roughly half of the land within the circle is extremely dry (less than 6 inches of precipitation per year, primarily in the form of snow), and about half of that land is actually part of the “Rimrocks” proper, a series of sandstone cliffs ranging from five to over 50 feet high.



JB trap between Leavens Pumping Station and Rimrocks. Trap was positive for JB in 2008

Within the circle there are about 650 properties. A large portion of this land is owned by Montana State University-Billings. Other major landowners include the City of Billings, and the airport, both of which were notified of past beetle finds, and appropriate courses of action. The airport added white grub control to their regular landscaping maintenance. At this time, the city was unable to include treatments of their land into regular property maintenance. Appropriate to the location of repeated positive traps, most Montana State University-Billings properties continue to be treated with Merit WS 75, including a large number of rental properties. MSU-Billings personnel trapped the same locations in 2008 as they trapped in 2006 and 2007. While homeowners no longer participated in the survey, the essential area, on the north-west corner of the University property and in the area of Ryniker Drive, was still trapped by MDA. This area has yielded over 95% of the JB collected in Billings over all years since initial detection.

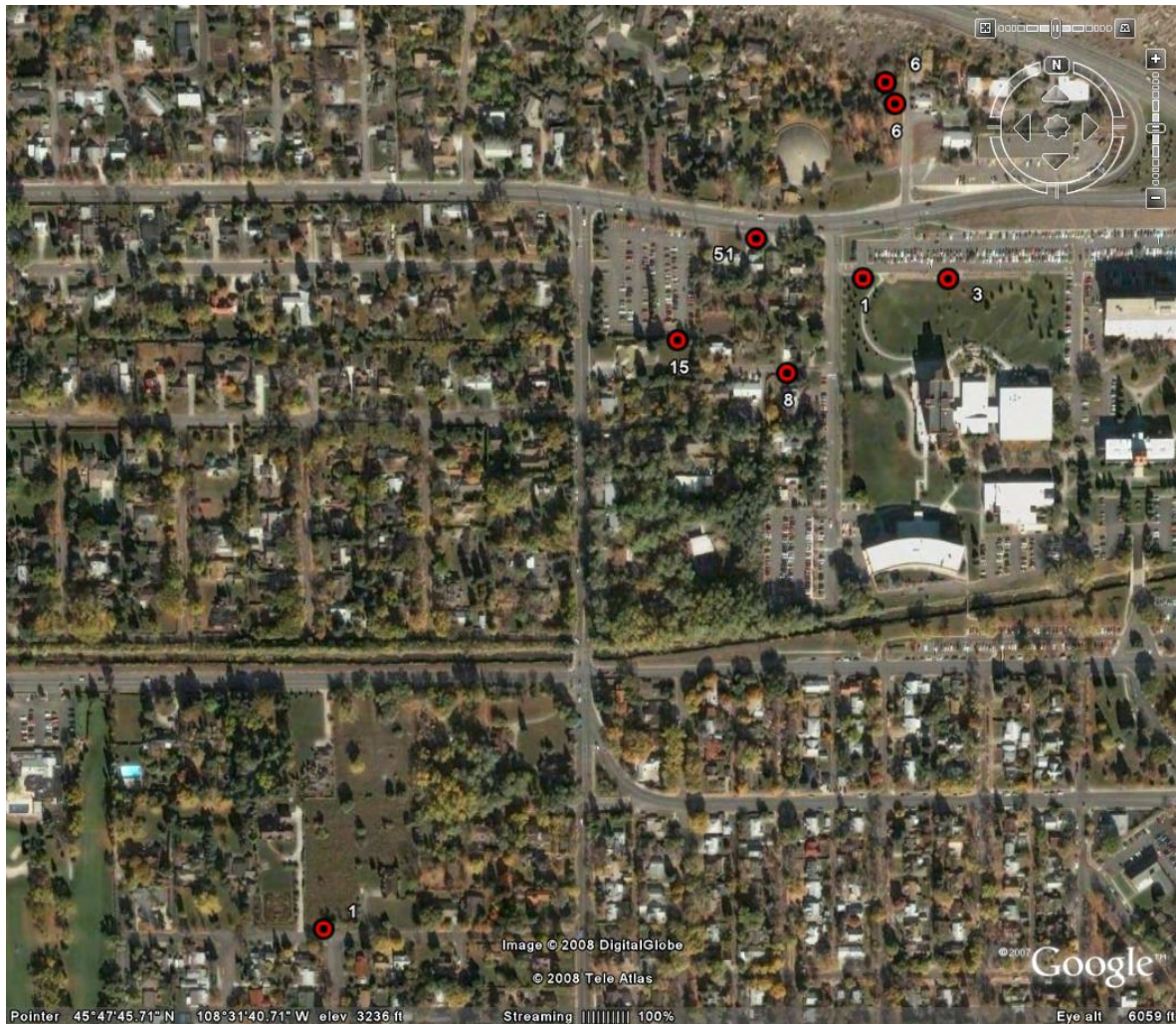
During 2008, 54 JB traps were placed in the immediate vicinity of the MSU-B area. Eight traps were positive for JB with a total catch of 97 individuals on the universities property and nearby private property. Many of these areas were treated for JB in 2008. This is a near tripling of the total number of beetles caught in any of the programs previous years.



The well irrigated turf at the city owned Leavens Pumping Station. This image was taken directly across the street from the JB trap that yielded more than 50 beetles.



Potential JB feeding damage in unmaintained area between Leavens Station and Rimrocks.



Aerial view of positive trap locations in the MSU-Billings area. Numbers in white indicate the number of adult JB caught in the traps.

JB Other Locations in Montana, 2007-2008

Following a find of JB in Lake County during 2007, a delimitation survey was conducted that year which yielded no additional JB finds. In 2008, 2 male Japanese beetles were found in a trap at a nursery in Flathead County. In 2009, a delimitation survey of nearly 500 traps will be conducted around the positive trap to determine if JB is present in Flathead county, or if the two individuals “hitchhiked” on a nursery shipment from an infested state. Traceback and trace-forward information will be collected to identify potential sources of JB material.

**Japanese Beetle Trapping
USDA APHIS PPQ
MONTANA AIRPORTS
2008**

The USDA APHIS PPQ traps for Japanese beetles at selected high risk airports within the state. Based on airport size, and number of flights from infested areas, traps are placed around the perimeter of the airports, and in any landscaping that might increase risk of JB infestation.

During 2008, the USDA APHIS PPQ placed and monitored 66 traps at seven airports. These were Billings (29 traps), Bozeman (5 traps), Butte (5 traps), Great Falls (12 traps), Helena (5 traps), Missoula (6 traps), and Kalispell (4 traps).

There were no detections of JB during the 2008 season in traps monitored by the USDA APHIS PPQ.